

U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE LEADERSHIP | APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Sarang V. Damle

Deputy General Counsel



Maria Strong

**Deputy Director of Policy
& International Affairs**

Register of Copyrights Maria A. Pallante announced today the appointment of Sarang (“Sy”) V. Damle to the position of Deputy General Counsel of the United States Copyright Office and Maria Strong to the position of Deputy Director of Policy and International Affairs, both effective **January 12, 2015**. They will serve as members of the Copyright Office senior management team and have responsibility for extensive portfolios of law and policy.

Previously, Damle was Special Advisor to the Copyright Office’s General Counsel, assisting with a wide range of legal issues before the Office, including litigation, policy studies, and regulatory proceedings. Before that, he was Senior Counsel at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and an appellate litigator in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Division. Damle earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he graduated first in his class. He also has engineering and business degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

Strong joined the Copyright Office in 2010 as Senior Counsel for Policy and International Affairs. Among her duties, she has represented the Office as a member of U.S. government delegations at regional trade negotiations and bilateral meetings with foreign governments. Previously, Strong spent almost 20 years in private practice in Washington, D.C., representing clients in the media, technology, and entertainment sectors. Strong has a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School, a master’s degree in communications management from the University of Southern California, and a bachelor’s degree in communication studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

“Sy and Maria are already highly valued members of the Copyright Office legal team and recognized experts in copyright law, policy, and litigation,” said Pallante. “Their willingness to assume more extensive responsibility as managers will be invaluable as we carry out the ever-important and complex provisions of Title 17.”

Damle reports to Jacqueline C. Charlesworth, General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights. Strong reports to Karyn Temple Claggett, Associate Register of Copyrights and Director of Policy and International Affairs.

ABOUT THE USCO

The U.S. Copyright Office, and the position of Register of Copyrights, were created by Congress in 1897 as a separate department of the Library of Congress. Today, the employees of the Office examine and process more than a half a million claims to copyright registration, and record thousands of documents related to registrations on file in the Office's extensive catalogue. The Office also has critical law and policy functions prescribed to it by the Congress, including: domestic and international policy analyses; legislative support; litigation activities, support for the courts and executive branch agencies (including significant effort on trade and antipiracy initiatives); participation on U.S. delegations in meetings with foreign governments or private parties; hosting copyright training for officials from developing countries; and providing public information and educational outreach.